

ENTERED

July 29, 2025

Nathan Ochsner, Clerk

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
for the
SOUTHERN District of TEXAS

United States of America)
v.)
BAZILE RICHARDSON) Case No. 4:25-mj-453
Defendant)

ORDER OF DETENTION PENDING TRIAL

Part I - Eligibility for Detention

Upon the

A. Motion of the Government or the Court's own motion for a detention hearing pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(1) because the defendant is charged with:

(1) a crime of violence, a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1591, or an offense listed in 18 U.S.C. § 2332b(g)(5)(B) for which a maximum term of imprisonment of 10 years or more is prescribed; **or**

(2) an offense for which the maximum sentence is life imprisonment or death; **or**

(3) an offense for which a maximum term of imprisonment of 10 years or more is prescribed in the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. §§ 801–904), the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. §§ 951–971), or Chapter 705 of Title 46, U.S.C. (46 U.S.C. §§ 70501–70508); **or**

(4) any felony if such person has been convicted of two or more offenses described in Subparagraphs (1) through (3) of this paragraph or two or more of such offenses if a circumstance giving rise to federal jurisdiction had existed, or a combination thereof; **or**

(5) any felony that is not otherwise a crime of violence but involves (a) a minor victim; (b) the possession of a firearm or destructive device (as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921); (c) any other dangerous weapon; or (d) a failure to register under 18 U.S.C. § 2250;

OR

B. Motion of the Government or the Court's own motion for a detention hearing pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(2) because the case involves:

(1) a serious risk that the defendant will flee if released; **or**

(2) a serious risk that the defendant will obstruct or attempt to obstruct justice or threaten, injure, or intimidate, or attempt to threaten, injure, or intimidate a prospective witness or juror if released.

The Court found that the Government established one or more of the factors above, held a detention hearing, and found that detention is warranted. This order sets forth the Court's findings of fact and conclusions of law, as required by 18 U.S.C. § 3142(i), in addition to any other findings made at the hearing.

Part II - Findings of Fact and Law as to Presumptions under § 3142(e)

A. Rebuttable Presumption Arises Under 18 U.S.C. § 3142(e)(2) (previous violator): There is a rebuttable presumption that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the safety of any other person and the community because the following conditions have been met:

(1) the defendant is charged with one of the following crimes described in 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(1):

(a) a crime of violence, a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1591, or an offense listed in 18 U.S.C. § 2332b(g)(5)(B) for which a maximum term of imprisonment of 10 years or more is prescribed; **or**

(b) an offense for which the maximum sentence is life imprisonment or death; **or**

(c) an offense for which a maximum term of imprisonment of 10 years or more is prescribed in the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. §§ 801–904), the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. §§ 951–971), or Chapter 705 of Title 46, U.S.C. (46 U.S.C. §§ 70501–70508); **or**

(d) any felony if such person has been convicted of two or more offenses described in subparagraphs

(a) through (c) of this paragraph, or two or more State or local offenses that would have been offenses described in subparagraphs (a) through (c) of this paragraph if a circumstance giving rise to federal jurisdiction had existed, or a combination of such offenses; **or**

(e) any felony that is not otherwise a crime of violence that involves:

(i) a minor victim; (ii) the possession or use of a firearm or destructive device (as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921); (iii) any other dangerous weapon; or (iv) a failure to register under 18 U.S.C. § 2250; **and**

(2) the defendant has been convicted of a federal offense that is described in 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(1), or of a State or local offense that would have been such an offense if a circumstance giving rise to federal jurisdiction had existed; **and**

(3) the offense described in paragraph (2) above for which the defendant has been convicted was committed while the defendant was on release pending trial for a federal, State, or local offense; **and**

(4) a period of not more than five years has elapsed since the date of conviction, or the release of the defendant from imprisonment, for the offense described in paragraph (2) above, whichever is later.

B. Rebuttable Presumption Arises Under 18 U.S.C. § 3142(e)(3) (narcotics, firearm, other offenses): There is a rebuttable presumption that no condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure the appearance of the defendant as required and the safety of the community because there is probable cause to believe that the defendant committed one or more of the following offenses:

(1) an offense for which a maximum term of imprisonment of 10 years or more is prescribed in the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. §§ 801–904), the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. §§ 951–971), or Chapter 705 of Title 46 (46 U.S.C. §§ 70501–70508);

(2) an offense under 18 U.S.C. §§ 924(c), 956(a), or 2332b;

(3) an offense listed in 18 U.S.C. § 2332b(g)(5)(B) for which a maximum term of imprisonment of 10 years or more is prescribed;

(4) an offense under Chapter 77 of Title 18 (18 U.S.C. §§ 1581–1597) for which a maximum term of imprisonment of 20 years or more is prescribed; **or**

(5) an offense involving a minor victim under 18 U.S.C. §§ 1201, 1591, 2241, 2242, 2244(a)(1), 2245, 2251, 2251A, 2252(a)(1), 2252(a)(2), 2252(a)(3), 2252A(a)(1), 2252A(a)(2), 2252A(a)(3), 2252A(a)(4), 2260, 2421, 2422, 2423, or 2425.

C. Application of Any Presumption Established Above

The defendant has not rebutted the presumption.
OR
 The defendant has rebutted the presumption.

Part III - Analysis and Statement of the Reasons for Detention

After considering any applicable presumption, the nature and circumstances of the defendant's alleged conduct, the defendant's history and characteristics, the other factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3142(g), the information presented at the detention hearing, and the available conditions of release under 18 U.S.C. § 3142(c), the Court concludes that the defendant must be detained pending trial because the Government has proven:

- By clear and convincing evidence that no condition or combination of conditions of release will reasonably assure the safety of any other person and the community.
- By a preponderance of evidence that no condition or combination of conditions of release will reasonably assure the defendant's appearance as required.

The reasons for detention include the following checked items (*After this list, add any additional items or explanations as needed to comply with the requirement for a written statement of reasons under 18 U.S.C. § 3142(i).*):

- The offense charged is a crime of violence, a violation of § 1591, a federal crime of terrorism, or involves a minor victim or a controlled substance, firearm, explosive, or destructive device.
- Weight of evidence against the defendant is strong.
- Subject to lengthy period of incarceration if convicted.
- Lack of significant family or other ties to the community.
- Significant family or other ties outside the United States.
- Lack of legal status in the United States.
- Subject to removal or deportation after serving any period of incarceration.
- Lack of stable residence.
- Lack of stable employment.
- Lack of financially responsible sureties.
- Prior attempt(s) to evade law enforcement.
- Use of alias(es) or false documents.
- History of alcohol or substance abuse.
- Prior criminal history.
- History of violence or use of weapons.
- Prior violations of probation, parole, or supervised release.
- Prior failure to appear in court as ordered.
- On probation, parole, and/or release pending trial, sentence appeal, or completion of the sentence at the time of the alleged offense.
- Participation in criminal activity while on probation, parole, or supervision.
- The defendant's release poses serious danger to any person or the community.

OTHER REASONS OR FURTHER EXPLANATION:

Detention and identity hearing held. The government moved for detention under (f)(1) and (f)(2) based on danger and serious risk of flight. Defendant objected as the charged crime is not one of the enumerated crimes under (f)(1). The Court found such hearing was warranted given the allegations that Defendant's charged criminal conduct directly involves him funding violent armed Haitian gang activities, including the purchase of firearms, vehicles, and paying gang member salaries through a sanctioned specially designated person (SDP), who is in charge of the gang that controls Port Au Prince, Haiti, through violence and extortion. See U.S. v. Byrd, 969 F.2d 106, 110 (5th Cir. 1992); U.S. v. Zaccaria, 347 F. App'x 984, 986 (5th Cir. 2009) (charged offense need not be a crime of violence under (f)(1) as long as there is a nexus or the case involves a crime of violence or other statutory factor). First, based on the testimony by law enforcement, the Court finds probable cause exists that establishes Defendant is the same person named in the indictment in the District of Columbia, thus establishing identity. Next, based on the evidence and testimony at the hearing, the Court finds there are no conditions or combination of conditions to reasonably assure the safety of any other person or the community. The Court did not find sufficient evidence to establish serious risk of flight. However, the Court finds, by clear and convincing evidence Defendant is a danger to any person or the community based on the following: (1) Defendant raised and provided funds to SDP for the purpose or promoting and facilitating violent armed gang activity in Haiti, including the purchase of firearms, vehicles and paying gang member salaries; (2) SDP is in charge of a gang that has committed attacks, burned down homes, and killed civilians in Haiti; (3) Defendant knowingly engaged in this conduct, knowing where the money was going and knowing SDP had been accused of engaging in human rights violations, including the 2018 La Saline massacre (where civilians were killed and houses burned down); (4) communication between SDP and Defendant show that SDP acknowledged Defendant's help and asking "to give the guys the means," and that SDP is "out on the streets taking care of a lot of things.>"; (5) Defendant sent SDP a voice message he received about needing funds to start a revolution in Haiti, by sending money to other Haitians, to buy weapons and ammunition; (6) Defendant acknowledged that if he was in Haiti he would fight, but that "he will do whatever is in his power to support SDP . . . and if possible, "would finance all of SDP's projects and provide him with all the heavy weapons to win the fight; (7) Defendant sent a voice memo to SDP about speaking with others in the U.S. about investing money for SDP; (8) Defendant is a member of this gang and holds the rank similar to a lieutenant; owns property in Haiti; and is a valuable member of the gang given his financial contributions; (9) Defendant also threatened to burn down the house of a person in Haiti if he knew where that person lived by threatening to tell Izzo (head of a Haitian gang indicted here for hostage taking). Accordingly, the Court finds the weight of the evidence is strong against the Defendant; he faces a lengthy prison sentence if convicted; his criminal conduct has a direct nexus to and involves crimes of violence and the possession of firearms under 3142(f)(1); he has a long standing relationship with SDP, the head of the gang that controls Port Au Prince; and Defendant has threatened to burn someone's house down. Therefore, the Court ORDERS Defendant be detained pending further proceedings in his case.

Part IV - Directions Regarding Detention

The defendant is remanded to the custody of the Attorney General or to the Attorney General's designated representative for confinement in a corrections facility separate, to the extent practicable, from persons awaiting or serving sentences or being held in custody pending appeal. The defendant must be afforded a reasonable opportunity for private consultation with defense counsel. On order of a court of the United States or on request of an attorney for the Government, the person in charge of the corrections facility must deliver the defendant to a United States Marshal for the purpose of an appearance in connection with a court proceeding.

Date: July 29, 2025



U.S. Magistrate Judge

